



# The Arlington Advocate

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## Hardy students get a lesson in manners

Youngsters dress up for Etiquette Day

BY LES G. MASTERTON  
STAFF WRITER

**H**ardy School first grade student Jasmine Jackson placed a napkin on her lap and looked ravishing in her flowered blouse, long dress and braiding beads in her hair.

Jackson sat patiently waiting for volunteers and teachers to serve everyone in the Hardy Cafetorium. When one girl started to eat her salad, Jackson reminded the fellow first grader that it is not polite to eat before all guests have their food.

With everyone set, the students started with a roll. Jackson picked up her butter and roll and carefully spread the dairy goodness on the bread. Across from Jackson, Erica Pandey glided the butter onto her roll and then licked the remnants from her knife, but etiquette expert Jackson told the fellow first grader, "No, you're not supposed to lick the knife."

**Pandey can be excused for** not knowing this little piece of etiquette, since the youngster just returned from Disney World and missed the manners lesson the previous day.

The two students were taking part in Hardy's first Etiquette Day on Thursday, Jan. 24. Children, teachers, and parents dressed up in their finest clothes and filed into the cafetorium — called

■ SEE ETIQUETTE, PAGE 15



Before heading to the Hardy Dining Room, kindergarten students Kerianne Conroy, Andrew Guanci, and Melissa Gryan play Chutes and Ladders.

## Center for the Arts exhibit explores four women's views on midlife

### INSIDE

#### Health & Fitness

From Pilates to teeth whitening, read how to make healthy choices.

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BY BRENDA MILLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

Photographic artist Andrea Geyer said she thought midlife crisis was a "big joke," but is not so sure now.

"I'm healthy. I have a nice family, a great husband, but there came a point when you become aware of your own mortality and the choices you've made," said Geyer, age 42, at the opening of "Reflections at Midlife" at the Arlington Center for the Arts' Gibbs Gallery last Thursday. "And sometimes having a family has limited those choices. You reassess how far you've come and the dreams you once had based on your values. You come to a place where you want to bring your life into accord with those values."

In addition to Geyer, there are three other artists — Karen Davis, Nancy Hart, and Elizabeth Buckley — whose work will remain at the gallery until March 2.

The content of the show is what Buckley felt lured attendees to the opening night.

"This might be a topic that isn't common. Women were drawn to it especially. I think people knew it wasn't going to be just pretty pictures. There was going to be substance to it," said Buckley.

The artists define their work collectively in a group statement. The end of which reads, "Female role models, idealizations, the ephemeral essence of relationships, comparisons with cultural ideals, recalling decisive moments — these are the pivots of human experience on which our work turns."

"Feel free to poke around," said photographic artist Karen Davis.

There were mementos on the table that showed the viewer the artist's memories of her mother, Ida Davis, a glass candleholder with a scented green candle, a tray of small, old photos, and a hand-made book of sayings her mother used to say called, "The Ida Davis Book of Everyday Expressions."

On the pages of the hand-made red paper book, are common phrases like "It's raining cats and dogs," "It's a labor of love," "Look for the silver lining," "Time flies when you're having fun," and "You know, I may be old — but I'm young at heart."

Davis shows two pictures within the same frame. On the left is the photograph

#### Karen Davis

er's mother, holding Karen adoringly to her face when she was a baby. The picture to the right shows a close up of Ida's frail, age-spotted hand held by the artist's own hand amidst the sheets of the bed in which Ida passed away. This loving tribute is called "The First and Last Picture with My Mother" and one of the more serious pieces of Karen Davis' work.

The majority of her work at this show has a stabbing sense of humor.

She exposes herself in her self-portraiture. One photo shows Davis taking a picture of her reflection in a fun-house mirror at an amusement park. The mirror has distorted the shape of her body making her hips look large and her long legs short. Her aging physical being has fallen short in the

■ SEE EXHIBIT, PAGE 15

## Lights approved for MM trail

BY DANA FRONCZAK  
STAFF WRITER

Permanent lighting will be installed along the easternmost portion of the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail in coming weeks after Board of Selectmen approval Monday.

The lighting comes in response to a rash of attacks on women traveling on the path near the Alewife train station. While there have been no assaults so far in 2002, Town Manager Phil Fanning said, "we have an obligation to make it as safe as possible."

Funding obtained from the commonwealth by state Sen. Robert Havern (D-Arlington) will light the portion of the trail from Varnum Street to the Cambridge line.

Up until now, temporary floodlights have shined skyward, illuminating the area and everything

■ SEE LIGHTS, PAGE 15

## River Street station robbed at gunpoint

BY LES G. MASTERTON  
STAFF WRITER

Police are investigating another gas station robbery this week, after a man fled the Gulf Station on River Street with around \$150 on Monday.

A gas station attendant told police that a man greeted him with "hello," while he walked on River Street around 6 p.m. The man continued toward Decatur Street. Approximately 15 minutes later, the man reappeared and said to the attendant, "Do you like living?"

When the victim responded in the affirmative, the suspect lifted his sweatshirt, showing the attendant a black handgun, and said, "Then you better give me all your money because I have a burner and I'll blast you."

The employee handed the robber his money and the thief allegedly told the victim that there were four friends hiding in

the bushes, who would shoot the attendant if he did anything before the suspect fled the scene. With that, the suspect ran over the nearby bridge toward Medford and the attendant called police, according to police.

In addition to the victim, two people also witnessed the robbery. The suspect is described as a black man, in his 20s or early 30s, about 5 feet, 7 inches, 200 pounds, with a beard, and possibly a gold cap on a right upper rear tooth. The man was reportedly wearing a brown leather bomber jacket, a black hooded sweatshirt, dark pants, and dark shoes.

The robbery came two weeks after four men were allegedly involved in a string of armed robberies in Arlington and Lexington, including the Texaco Gas Station in East Arlington, the Park Avenue Gulf Station, the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail, and

■ SEE ROBBERY, PAGE 14

## Alewife project delay leaves activists divided

BY DANA FRONCZAK  
STAFF WRITER

No news is bad news — or is it?

The stance of Arlington officials regarding another lengthy delay in the Cambridge Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project is hedging between protesting another 18 months of waiting or letting it go without a fight.

If they successfully protest the variance requested by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the project might happen more quickly. But, if they wait, the town might get a better project in the long run that results in cleaner Alewife Brook water.

But, then again, the state is slashing money to the MWRA this year, which might set off even further delays on projects.

"I'm between a rock and a hard place with this request for a variance," said Selectman Kathleen Kiely Dias. "An 18-month delay means 18 months of continued CSO, although there has been some work done." On the other hand, she said, "I'm concerned with the delay, but could we get better water quality if this takes longer?"

CSOs are the vestiges of the antiquated Boston sewer system, the oldest in the country. When

■ SEE CSO, PAGE 15

# FOR THE RECORD

## POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The log is available to the public.

Tuesday, Jan. 22

• At 7:41 p.m., a Gardner Street resident called police to report that someone was knocking on the door. Police were unable to locate the person.

• At 11:49 p.m., police responded to a call concerning two men trying to break into a Massachusetts Avenue business. When police arrived, they discovered that the two men were employees.

Wednesday, Jan. 23

• At 9:08 a.m., a Watermill Place resident reported identity and credit card fraud.

• At 4:50 p.m., a Milton Street resident reported that a dog ran in front of him on the sidewalk. Startled by the pooch, the man fell and suffered a swollen wrist. He also told police that, though the dog was leashed and attached to the porch railing, the canine was still able to walk on the sidewalk.

• At 6:58 p.m., police responded to Alton Street regarding a report of a bad check passing.

• At 10:11 p.m., an Arlington resident reported that she was the victim of domestic violence. Police did not arrest the suspect, but will seek criminal complaints.

Thursday, Jan. 24

• At 11:13 a.m., police received a call from Harlow Street concerning the theft of petty cash over the past month.

Friday, Jan. 25

• At 3:51 p.m., officers responded to Germaine Lawrence where a student had pushed two staff

Arrests	
Tuesday, Jan. 22	Inspector Joyce Wilson made the arrest at Callahan's Woburn home.
• At 6:45 p.m., police arrested a 12-year-old Arlington resident and charged him with domestic assault and battery. Officer Brian Connerney made the arrest.	registration and found that he had a warrant for his arrest. Wesley arrested Rao.
• At 10:05 p.m., police arrested Larissa Joy Lyman, 17, 18 Claremont Ave., and charged her with assault by means of a dangerous weapon (a knife). Officers responded to Germaine Lawrence concerning three girls with knives, refusing to leave the kitchen area. When they arrived, officers were told that Lyman had thrown objects at the staff, including a knife. Officer Gregory Flavin arrested the teen.	• At 1:40 p.m., police arrested Rodrigue Abellard Jr., 25, 73 Washington St., and charged him on a warrant for assault and battery. Officer Gary Sullivan made the arrest at Abellard's home.
• At 6:30 p.m., police arrested Frank R. Senesi Jr., 36, 52 Epping St., and charged him with assault and battery on a person over the age of 60. Officer Jennifer McGurl made the arrest.	• At 6:30 p.m., police arrested Arthur F. Silva, 59, 15 Grove St., #7, and charged him with operating a motor vehicle after his license was suspended, speeding, and overtaking vehicles. Officer Douglas Cronin spotted a vehicle, traveling at 40 mph in a 30 mph zone, nearly strike a parked car on Massachusetts Avenue. Cronin also saw the vehicle pass three vehicles on the right and nearly hit the curb several times. The officer pulled over the vehicle. When he approached the car, Cronin could smell alcohol coming from inside the vehicle. Cronin asked Silva to perform field sobriety tests, which the man failed. Cronin arrested the Grove Street man.
Wednesday, Jan. 23	• At 11 p.m., police arrested Prashant R. Rao, 34, 72 Gardner St., Allston, and charged him on a warrant for motor vehicle violations. Officer Michael Wesley spotted Rao's vehicle on Massachusetts Avenue without a registration sticker. The officer checked the Allston resident's

members. Police restored order.

• At 6:50 p.m., a group of youths reported that a driver chased them in the Bartlett Avenue area.

Saturday, Jan. 26

• At 12:43 a.m., a Massachusetts Avenue resident reported that her boyfriend had struck her. Police responded and found that the victim had two black eyes. She was taken to Somerville Hospital. The victim also received an emergency restraining order. Police

will seek a criminal complaint for assault and battery against the boyfriend, who had left the residence before officers arrived.

• At 1:23 a.m., police received a call concerning someone smashing a River Street business' front door and taking cigarettes.

Sunday, Jan. 27

• At 12:10 a.m., police responded to a call regarding a keyed car on Massachusetts Avenue.

• At 12:27 p.m., officers were called to Massachusetts Avenue

where two people reported that a white man, in his late-30s or early-40s, was pleasuring himself near a crosswalk. Police were unable to locate the suspect.

• At 4:02 p.m., an employee at a Broadway business reported that someone had stolen three cans of baby formula.

Monday, Jan. 28

• At 7:56 a.m., police responded to a call concerning two broken flood lights along the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail.

at 7 p.m. and the video and dialogue will begin at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to this free event, which is sponsored by the Arlington Human Rights Commission and co-sponsored by the Arlington Family Connection and the Arlington Safe Schools Task Force.

"The Mickey Mouse Monopoly" is the 10th in the Arlington Human Rights Commission's series of Arlington Dialogues.

The commission was established by Town Meeting in 1993 to serve as a mechanism for addressing issues of unlawful discrimination. In addition to addressing complaints, the commission also works to advance

issues related to the fair and equal treatment of all individuals by working with town government, the school department, law enforcement, and other town boards and commissions.

Questions about the event may be directed to Human Rights Commission at 781-316-3250.

The Arlington Fire Department responded to 80 calls from Jan. 21-27, including 51 with Rescue, four fire alarms, and 14 investigations.

References to paramedics denote two-medic teams from Armstrong Ambulance Service, a private Arlington-based ambulance company. The following are excerpts from the Fire Department log; the information is available to the public.

Monday, Jan. 21

• At 12:20 p.m., two 19-year-old women were injured after hitting a fence while sledding at Robbins Farm. They reported neck and back pain. Firefighters placed a collar around their necks and put them on backboards. Rescue transported the two women to Lahey Clinic.

Tuesday, Jan. 22

• At 7:11 a.m., a 41-year-old woman reported chest pain while on Mystic Street. Firefighters checked the woman's vital signs and administered oxygen. Rescue with paramedics transported her to Winchester Hospital.

Wednesday, Jan. 23

• At 10:07 a.m., the Fire Department received a call concerning a 1-year-old Tufts Street resident, who was suffering from a high temperature and having difficulty breathing. Firefighters checked the youngster's vital signs and administered oxygen. Rescue

transported the girl with her mother to Winchester Hospital.

Thursday, Jan. 24

• At 11:15 a.m., an 82-year-old Sunset Road resident possibly suffered a stroke. Firefighters checked the woman's vital signs and administered oxygen. Rescue transported the woman to Lahey Clinic.

Friday, Jan. 25

• At 5:54 p.m., firefighters responded to a call concerning a 79-year-old Wollaston Avenue resident, who was complaining of chest pain. Firefighters checked the woman's vital signs and administered oxygen. Rescue with paramedics transported the woman to Mt. Auburn Hospital.

Saturday, Jan. 26

• At 7:06 p.m., a 71-year-old Nicod Street resident complained of having chest pain. Firefighters checked the man's vital signs and administered oxygen. Rescue transported the patient to Winchester Hospital.

Sunday, Jan. 27

• At 5:58 p.m., a 92-year-old Massachusetts Avenue woman complained of having chest pain. Firefighters checked her vital signs, administered oxygen, and placed her on a cardiac monitor. Rescue transported the woman to Winchester Hospital.

## MEETINGS

Thursday, Jan. 31

• Contributory Retirement Board meets at 4:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Arlington High School, sixth floor.

Monday, Feb. 4

• Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Jefferson Cutter House, lower level.

• Arlington Bicycle Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first floor.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

• Permanent Town Building Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second floor.

• Arlington Family Connection meets at 7 p.m. in the Robbins Library, fourth-floor conference room. Agenda items include the monthly newsletter, winter family party, and seminar series.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

• Board of Health meets at 4 p.m. in the Fox Community Center.

Thursday, Feb. 7

• Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room.

• Zoning Bylaw Review Committee meets at 8 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first floor.

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Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 2, 3

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## The Arlington Advocate

USPS 031-900

The Arlington Advocate is published weekly on Thursday by Community Newspaper Company. Periodical postage paid at Concord, MA and additional mailing offices (CNC). Postmaster: Send address changes to The Arlington Advocate, Circulation Department, Box 9149, Framingham, MA 01701.



From left, Michael Kelly, Tracey Mullen, Ryan Melly, Joseph Palmieri, and Paul Houser are the newest Arlington firefighters.

## Fire Department adds five recruits

Arlington Fire Services Director Richard Maimone announced that five members of the 148th graduating class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's 55-day Recruit Firefighting Program are Arlington firefighters.

Michael Kelly, Tracey Mullen, Ryan Melly, Joseph Palmieri, and Paul Houser are the new recruits.

This rigorous professional training provides the newest firefighters with the basic skills to effectively and safely perform their jobs. This program is offered, tuition-free, by the Massachusetts Fire Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, they learn all these

skills and more from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters. Students learn all the basic skills they need to respond to fires and to contain and control them.

They are also given training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, water rescue procedures, confined space rescue techniques, and rappelling. The intensive, 11-week program for municipal firefighters involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and live firefighting practice.

Students receive classroom

training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operations, and fire attack.

Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple floor or multiple room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

## Firefighter exam deadline Friday

The commonwealth of Massachusetts' Human Resources Division will hold a civil service examination for entry-level firefighter, for cities and towns, on April 27. Applications must be filed or postmarked no later than Friday, Feb. 1.

Application and information about eligibility requirements, application fees, and the examination process are available at Human Resources

Division, Customer Services Unit, One Ashburton Place, Boston, or by calling 617-727-3777 ext. 246 or toll-free at 1-800-392-6178 ext. 246. Application materials are also available at the Arlington Community Safety Building, second floor, 112 Mystic St., and at the Arlington Town Hall Annex, Personnel Department, third floor, 730 Massachusetts Ave.

Robert Bowes

Lynne Lowenstein

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Electra Kokaras Apostolou

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Maria Lalicata

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Lynne Thompson



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Cathy Shea



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## Entrance age, full-day fee discussed

BY DANA FRONCZAK  
STAFF WRITER

The recommendations to change the age at which students can enter kindergarten was sent back to a subcommittee for further review because of reaction from preschool administrators.

The School Committee's Policy and Procedures Subcommittee Chairman Martin Thrope said the recommendation needed some minor revisions, but he also wanted to engage parents, teachers and administrators in another round of talks to ensure that "this plan works for everybody."

Up until now, Arlington was one of a handful of communities to accept kindergarten students who reached their fifth birthday by Dec. 31 of a given year. The new recommendations call for the date to be pushed back over a period of five years incrementally, with waivers allowed for students and parents until 2005.

In 2005, a student will have to turn 5 by Aug. 31 to enter kindergarten with no exceptions or waivers available.

"I agree that it is a good idea to send it back because some of the language could be tightened up," said School Committee member Paul Schlichtman, who also serves on the subcommittee. "But I thought we had a good compromise plan here."

Also related to kindergarten, Superintendent of Schools Kay Donovan announced that for the

## Full-day kindergarten fees

Town	Full day?	Cost
Arlington	Yes	\$500
Bedford	Yes	Free
Belmont	No	NA
Burlington	No	NA
Lexington	No	NA
Malden	Yes	Free
Medford	Yes	Free
Melrose	Yes	Free
Watertown	Yes	Free
Winchester	No	NA
Woburn	Yes	Free

Note: Burlington has a free three-quarters a day kindergarten; Bedford's full-day program is four days a week.  
NA — Not applicable.

next school year, the school will demand the \$500 payment for full-day kindergarten tuition before school starts.

She said this is an attempt to generate more revenue. Donovan also addressed the statements of Paul Sheehan, a kindergarten parent who objected to the continued tuition payments when other programs in the surrounding area are free.

In the case of nearby Burlington, the school system offers a three-quarter kindergarten day for free.

Donovan said, of 401 children in kindergarten in the Arlington Public Schools, "I think 399 are in the full-day program and one is in the process of changing over to the full-day program."

She indicated that the average charge for all-day kindergarten is about \$2,000, with some schools charging as much as \$3,300.

## CAPITOL THEATRE

- HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE (PG) — 11:20; 2:20; 5:20; 8:20
- HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE (PG) — 2:20; 5:20; 8:20
- MULHOLLAND DRIVE (R) — 7:00; 9:45
- THE HEIST (R) — 7:45; 10:10
- VANILLA SKY (R) — 11:30; 2:05; 4:40; 7:20; 9:55
- THE SHIPPING NEWS (R) — 1:35; 4:00; 7:40; 10:05
- JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS (G) — 1:25; 3:25; 5:25
- KATE AND LEOPOLD (PG13) — 2:10; 4:55; 7:35; 9:50
- MONSTERS, INC. (G) — 1:35; 3:35; 5:35

Saturday, Feb. 2 and Sunday, Feb. 3

- HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE (PG) — 11:20; 2:20; 5:20; 8:20
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Monday, Feb. 4 through Thursday, Feb. 7

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Kathy Calandrella

Ted Griffin

Walter Pennell

# Ryan: Police have implemented most recommendations

BY DANA FRONCZAK  
STAFF WRITER

A year after a police management study called for more officers on Arlington's streets, many of the recommendations provided in the study have been achieved, said Police Services Director Fred Ryan Monday.

But the department has only hired five of the 15 recommended police officers and prospects appear dim to hire more this year with local and state resources stretched to the limit.

In one of his first moves as second vice president of the National League of Cities, Board of Selectmen Chairman Charles Lyons lobbied Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge to provide more local funding as part of the Bush Administration's increase in homeland

security monies in 2003. Ryan agreed wholeheartedly.

"All the funding is going to the federal and state levels, but when someone calls '911' we're the ones answering the phone," said Ryan.

Lyons wants to get federal funding to increase training for emergency personnel in order to establish a better overall disaster response plan for Arlington.

"We do not have adequate training for our police officers. We never have," Lyons said.

The hiring of the first five officers was helped by a \$375,000 federal grant, but the grant shrinks for 2003 and the town will have to assume the leftover cost.

"I'd like to as soon as possible move on that goal of 15," said Selectman Diane Mahon.

Despite the budget restrictions, police will push forward with two

major initiatives this year. One change is the very name of the department. Now known officially as Police Services under the Department of Community Safety, the town wants to abolish that moniker and establish independent Arlington Police and Fire departments.

While little will change within the management and organizational structure, the move to an independent department intends to boost the status of the department and its officers' morale.

But the departments do hope to establish separate fire and police headquarters. Both are now located in the same office of the Community Safety Building. A study to assess the town's fire station needs was delayed because of the Sept. 11 attacks; once the study's findings are released, both

departments will have a better sense of how the two can be separated.

Town Manager Phil Farrington and Ryan also both want to restructure the town's emergency dispatch system. Most notably they want to hire a supervisor for a group of nine dispatchers that have no direct supervision, Ryan said.

Upon hearing that group has no boss, Selectman Kathleen Kiely Dias said, "We're at a huge risk (not having supervision), both in terms of community safety as an employer."

Right now, Police Capt. Richard Kennefick supervises dispatch on an interim basis.

The job of dispatchers has evolved on so many levels in terms of computer technology and wireless technology," Ryan

said, adding that the state has organized a dispatch academy for training.

The town estimates that it will cost \$45,000 to pay for a dispatch supervisor.

Of the 29 recommendations that the Crest Police Study advocates, 18 have been completed in full, one has been completed in part (hiring new officers) and three are being addressed at this year's Town Meeting. Two await negotiations with the police and fire unions, two await the results of the fire station study, two others the department decided to take no action on, and one (the dispatch supervisor) is being handled on an interim basis.

The department elected to not create a Technology Subcommittee, saying that the current Management Information Systems

department is "outstanding." The department has also decided to not hire reserve police officers.

Among notable accomplishments, Police Services has stepped up park and walk patrols and bicycle patrols, created an Internal Affairs Unit, and added one additional captain and two lieutenants, according to Ryan.

The director said, in a memo to the board, that he's proud of the accomplishments "in a time that has been particularly challenging to municipal law enforcement." In the past year, police have dealt with multiple armed robberies for the painkiller drug OxyContin, a rash of false scares over anthrax, muggings and burglaries in East Arlington, and numerous indecent assaults on the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail, which remain unsolved.

## State reps holding office hours

• State Rep. Jim Marzilli will hold office hours Friday, Feb. 1 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Council on Aging, 27 Maple St. Rep. Marzilli holds office hours on the first and third Fridays of the month.

During this time, residents can come to discuss their concerns about town and state matters, legislation, and problems they are having with state agencies.

Rep. Marzilli can also be contacted at his Boston office (617) 722-2460 or Rep. James Marzilli

li@hou.state.ma.us.

• Rep. Anne M. Paulsen will hold office hours in Arlington on Friday, Feb. 1, from 1 to 2 p.m. and on Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Fox Library, at the corner of Cleveland Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

All East Arlington residents are welcome to come and meet Rep. Paulsen, to let her know about concerns they have, or to ask for help with legislation or in dealing with state agencies.

## Former town employee pleads guilty to assaults

### DePierro given two years probation

BY DANA FRONCZAK  
STAFF WRITER

A former Arlington town employee will serve two years' probation after he pled guilty to two counts of indecent assault and battery on an Arlington High School student.

Michael DePierro, 37, whose last address was reported to be in Billerica, pled guilty to two counts of indecent assault and battery Thursday, Jan. 24. Seth Horowitz of the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office said Monday that DePierro received two concurrent two-year probationary terms for the charges.

DePierro formerly worked as a

Arlington Redevelopment Board, where he maintained properties owned and operated by that board. Personnel Director Caryn Cove reported that DePierro had only recently resigned from his job on Friday, Jan. 25, despite being placed on unpaid suspension since June 2000.

Horowitz said other charges against DePierro were either dismissed or "filed without a finding." One charge of assault with intent to rape and another charge of indecent assault and battery were disposed of by the Middlesex Superior Court. A judge ruled that two other charges of assault and battery were to be placed on file with no ruling.

In addition to the probation,

DePierro must have no contact with the victim, who is now 18, and must be evaluated for sex offender treatment. Additional conditions may apply to his probation if he is determined to be dangerous to others, Horowitz said.

Sex Offender Registry Board Director of Communication and Legislation Charlie McDonald said the charges DePierro were convicted of require him to register as a sex offender.

A grand jury indicted DePierro in June 2000 after Billerica police arrested him May 8 of that year on a warrant sought by Arlington. Then-Sgt. James Moran told *The Advocate* in an interview in December of that year that the girl had reported the crimes to an Arlington High School teacher in April 2000.

Moran said the girl told the teacher that she had been sexually assaulted repeated times during a two- to three-week period in December 1999. He added that the victim told the teacher that she had been assaulted in numerous places, including the Arlington Senior Center and in the Custodial Department of the high school.

The alleged rape attempt, which was dismissed by the court, occurred at a private residence in Arlington, said Director of Police Services Fred Ryan at the time.

According to Moran, DePierro recognized the girl from an elementary school she had attended. The first time he saw her, DePierro commented how much she had grown and touched her inappropriately, said police.

## ROBBINS LIBRARY EVENTS

### Fractured workshop

Love to act wacky? Well join the Arlington Children's Theater at Robbins Library for a Fractured Fairy Tales Workshop on Friday, Feb. 8 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

In this workshop, Susan Becker of the ACT helps kids create characters from classic fairy tales and then act out their own variations of these familiar tales. Children work on both setting a scene and character development and they have lots of fun.

As this is expected to be a popular program, children aged 6 to 12 are asked to sign up for the program. Sign up can be done in person at the

Children's Desk of the Robbins Library or by calling 781-316-3234. This workshop is presented through a grant from the Russell Fund.

### Sing-alongs update

The Robbins Library's Infant and Toddler Sing-alongs are hugely popular and consequently the library must limit the number of people who can attend. To control the numbers of children and caretakers attending, the Children's Department has begun issuing tickets.

Those who wish to attend the Spring sessions of the sing-along, which will run from March

through May must register and pick up a ticket for either the "green" or the "yellow" session. Tickets allow you to attend on a two weeks on and two weeks off basis.

You must re-register even if you have ticket for the Winter session and have been coming in January and February. Registration will begin on Feb. 6 and will be on a first come, first served basis, until all spaces in the "green" and "yellow" sessions have been filled.

Tickets may be picked up beginning Feb. 12. Once you are registered, your ticket can be picked up at any time the Children's Room is open. You will

attend only on the dates shown on your ticket. To avoid confusion please co-operate with this rule.

### Chess club

The popular Thursday evening drop-in chess club begins a second session at the Robbins Library on Feb. 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the library community room.

Chess club is aimed at children in grades 3 to 5.

Chess club will run every Thursday evening from Feb. 14 to March 21. For more information, please call the Robbins Library at 781-316-3234.

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# Man charged with assaulting elderly aunt

BY LES G. MASTERTON  
STAFF WRITER

A 36-year-old Epping Street resident is being held without bail after he allegedly assaulted his elderly aunt Thursday, Jan. 24.

Police arrested Frank R. Senesi Jr., 52 Epping St., and charged him with assault and battery of a person over the age of 60.

"We are discussing the matter with the DA's office to see what, if any, additional charges will be sought," said Police Services Director Fred Ryan.

Firefighters responded to the Epping Street home around 4 p.m. Jan. 24 after a family mem-

ber found the victim yelling for help and bloodied at the bottom of her basement stairs. The woman told firefighters that her nephew had grabbed her arm and pushed her down the stairs at around 9 or 10 a.m. that morning, at which point police responded to the scene.

Officers arrived to find the woman at the bottom of stairs, with her head covered in blood and her eyes swollen shut and purple. The woman also suffered bruises to her right leg, both arms, wrist, and chest area. Where firefighters and officers found the woman, there was also blood on the bottom two stairs, walls, and basement floor.

**'We are discussing the matter with the DA's office to see what, if any, additional charges will be sought.'**

FRED RYAN  
POLICE SERVICES DIRECTOR

Police were unable to speak with the victim because of her injuries and firefighters transported the woman to Lahey Clin-

ic. Her injuries are not considered life-threatening, according to Ryan.

Later that evening, police interviewed Senesi and arrested the man.

Ryan said Monday that police are taking this case "seriously" and continue to investigate the man.

"We're investigating to find out what events led up to the [alleged incident]," said Ryan.

The director added that police are "not aware" of any previous incidents involving the victim and the suspect.

Senesi's next court date is a pretrial conference on Feb. 13.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Cats need homes

The Alliance for Animals Cat Adoption Center is having its annual Valentine's Day Open House on Sunday, Feb. 10, from 2 to 5 p.m. at 1241 Mass. Ave., across from Dunkin' Donuts.

Come and see the cats, meet the staff and volunteers, and find out more about your local animal shelter. There will be door prizes, crafts for sale and refreshments. (No adoptions will be done at the open house.)

Please call 781-648-6822 for more information.

### Arts meeting

The Arlington Center for the Arts invites all members of the community to participate in an open "theatre space" brainstorming session to envision what a remodeled auditorium space at the arts center

might look like and how the space could best serve artists and audience members. Input from a variety of users — individual performers, local community organizations, and businesses — is welcome.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Arlington Center for the Arts Auditorium, 41 Foster St. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact the Arlington Center for the Arts office at 781-648-6220.

Please call 781-648-6822 for more information.

### Book group

A monthly parent/teacher book discussion group meets at the Thompson School library on Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The book group, dedicated to discussing good children's literature, will discuss Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan this month.

All interested adults are wel-

come to join the discussion. It is sponsored by the Arlington School Department Title I program and Library/Media program and the Robbins Library Russell Fund. Thompson School is located on North Union Street in East Arlington. The group will meet monthly through April.

For more information, please call the Robbins Library at 781-316-3234.

### Story times

Story times for preschool children will resume in January at the Fox Branch Library.

Stories for 2 1/2 to 3 year olds will be held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. from Jan. 15 through Feb. 12 and for 4 to 5 year olds at 10:30 a.m. on the same days. The sessions of stories and finger plays will be followed by a simple craft. Please sign your child up for these programs by

calling the Fox Branch Library at 781-316-3198.

Lap-Sit stories for babies and toddlers up to age 2 1/2 will take place on Thursdays until Feb. 14 at 10 a.m. A brief story time is followed by a simple art activity, age appropriate toys and a chance to socialize. Children must be accompanied by an adult who will sit on the floor and participate in the songs and singing games. No sign up is required for this program.

Fox Branch Library is located at 175 Massachusetts Ave., on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Cleveland Street. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Pot luck supper

The Arlington American Legion Post 39 Auxiliary is holding a pot luck supper from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at the Post 39 Hall, 370 Massachusetts Ave. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children.

## Photo contest benefits stray pets

Stray Pets in Need of Massachusetts, SPIN, has kicked-off its fifth annual Pet Photo Contest to benefit area stray pets.

For a donation of \$10, up to three pet photos can be submitted to the contest. Donations will be used for veterinary care and spay/neuter of area stray pets. The deadline for entries is Feb. 26 — Spay Day.

To enter, submit photos along with name, address and phone number to SPIN, PO Box 812143, Wellesley, MA 02482. An independent panel of judges will choose

the winning photos (photos showing pets wearing collar/tags a plus). Photos will not be returned but will be used by SPIN for humane education and fundraising.

For more information call 781-235-1218.

This year, one photo will also be chosen for a Community Choice Award. Join SPIN for its annual Winter Fest on Feb. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Deerfield Senior Center on Route 9 Wellesley to vote on the Community Choice Award photo winner. For more information on Winter Fest,

call 781-235-8460.

SPIN was formed by local Animal Control Officer, Sue Webb, to provide extra veterinary care, expand adoptions and humane educational materials above those provided by limited town budgets. Mission statement: Promoting the well-being of animals and responsible human/animal relationships. For more information visit [www.straypetsinneed.org](http://www.straypetsinneed.org) or call 781-370-3232.

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An Informational Open House is scheduled for  
Tuesday, February 5th at 6:00pm.

The open house will take place at 15 Webster Avenue site.

Sign-ups for building tours will be available at the open house and in the Main Office of 15 Webster Avenue.

For more information, please call Cathy Traniello at (617) 629-5800.

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## Show continues focus on Afghanistan

Post-conflict reconstruction of Afghanistan is the focus of the latest Mary Lou Bigelow program.

Humayun Hamidzada, a graduate student at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, is studying humanitarian assistance. Formerly he was connected with the United Nations working on a World Bank program for Afghanistan. His dedication, clearly, is to his country — Afghanistan.

Hamidzada, who is part of an advisory team from Tufts University to the US Agency for International Development, sees three major transitions ahead: a security transition from war to peace, a political transition from warlordism and anarchy to a legitimate representative governance if not an immediate democracy, and a socio-economic transition from

a shadow criminalized economy to an open and progressive economy.

Reconstruction, he emphasizes, provides "incentives" for all stakeholders.

Volunteer crewmembers for this ACTV 8 series include Producer Host Bigelow, Directors Maureen Jackson and Steve Neri, camera operators Marsha Browne, Daniel Parsignault, audio technician Dan O'Connell and graphics operator Maureen Jackson. Scott Flowers designed the flower arrangements.

The show airs on Arlington Cable TV Channel 8 on Monday and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. For cable-viewers in Cambridge, the show is broadcast on Channel 10 each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

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# LEARNING

## SCHOOL NOTES

### Walk, Dallin survey

Sixty percent of respondents to the Safe Routes to School parent survey last November want their children to walk more often and 57 percent are interested in forming a walking group.

The 129 families responding represent 175 children, nearly half of the Dallin student population.

Of those responding, parents liked having children walk to school for the following top responses: exercise and fresh air, health benefits, not dealing with traffic/parking problems, quality time together, and to encourage neighborhood/community.

### After-school Spanish

Are there more students interested in after-school Spanish? Kristen Donahue will be teaching Spanish on Wednesdays from 2:20-3:20 to third, fourth and fifth graders if a minimum of nine students enroll. Seven students had signed up as of Jan. 25.

They will produce and perform a play at the end of the 15 weeks. Last December, the students performed "Blanca Nieves" ("Snow White"). Call Rose Udics at 781-646-9143 (her e-mail is [udigom@rcn.com](mailto:udigom@rcn.com)) or Kathleen Wolf at 781-646-1914.

Upcoming at Dallin:

- The annual pancake breakfast is set for Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 to 11 a.m. Adults \$3.50, children, \$2.50 with a maximum family charge of \$12. If interested in volunteering, call Fran Streitfeld @641-3807.

### Finberg celebration

Pauline Finberg, an institution at Arlington High School, is retiring at the end of the school year, and plans are under way to celebrate all she has done for the school. An evening is set for Thursday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Danversport Yacht Club, 131 Elliot St., Danvers.

Those involved in arranging the celebration ask you to join them in honoring Ms. Finberg and her 35 years of teaching, coaching, mentoring, advising and encouraging the students of Arlington High School.

Please contact one of the following for additional information about the event and to be added to the invitation mailing list. E-mail to: [G.Lieb@Verizon.net](mailto:G.Lieb@Verizon.net) or [blmay@msn.com](mailto:blmay@msn.com).

### Certificate of mastery

Thirteen students from Arlington High School have received the 2001 Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award. In all, 1,859 students from 214 high schools across the state received this award.

These certificates are awarded in celebration and recognition of their mastery of skills and knowledge, as demonstrated through their accomplishments in the fields of mathematics, science, arts, and humanities.

To meet the criteria for this award, applicants received qualifying scores on the MCAS tests and demonstrated two additional qualifying accomplishments that included at least one Advanced Placement (AP) or SAT II test score.

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Liz Buchanan will perform Tuesday, Feb. 19 at the Peirce School as part of Peirce School's third annual enrichment benefit.

## Peirce enrichment benefit set

Arlington singer, guitarist and songwriter Liz Buchanan is set to perform Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 10:30 a.m. on behalf of Peirce School's third annual enrichment benefit.

The program, "Sing-along and Musical Fun with Liz Buchanan and Friends," is scheduled to be held at Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Snow date is Feb. 20.

Performing with Buchanan will be flutist Mies Boet-Whitaker and percussionist Bob Schulz. This is during school vacation week.

All proceeds will go to the Peirce School enrichment program.

Buchanan is popular among families with young children. Her CD "Make It a Song, Song, Song," released this year, was named a 2001 Finalist for Best New Artist for Young Children, awarded by the Children's Music Web, the only award judged by children and their families.

"Antelope Dance" and her new train number, "Chugga Chugga Ding Ding," are top singles on the local kid pop charts.

In addition to playing and teaching the flute, Boet-Whitaker is a teacher in the Arlington school system. She accompanies Buchanan on the CD.

Schulz performs percussion programs for schools as well.

Advance ticket prices are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children.

At the door: \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Those 12 months old and younger are free. Refreshments, CDs and tapes will be for sale.

To buy advance tickets, call Donna (781-646-8514).

include another opportunity to purchase Stratton School T-shirts, hats and other merchandise, candy sales, an ice-skating party, a TV turn-off week social event and the Family Ice Cream Social and Picnic. A Family Fun Fair is set for May 18.

### Kindergarten information

PEIRCE: Orientation for all parents of incoming children who will attend kindergarten at Peirce next September, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, in the Stratton gymnasium. The Pheasant Avenue door will be open. A panel will briefly discuss the procedure for filling out registration forms, PTO activities, kindergarten curriculum, the kindergarten from the parent's point of view. A coffee hour will follow.

low. Registration materials will be given out at this meeting.

BISHOP: Parent orientation (parents only) on Thursday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. Registration (parents and children) on March 12 at 8:30-11:30 a.m. Mailing for each event were sent in mid-January. Call the school (316-3791) if you have not received information.

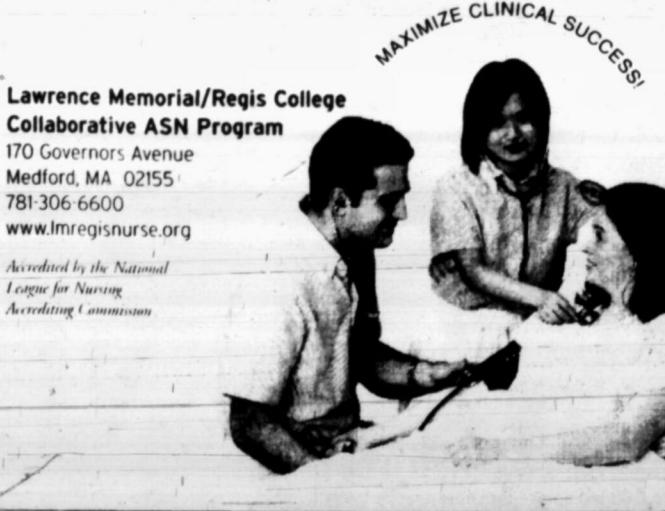
STRATTON: Registration, Monday, Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m.; presentation/information, 7 p.m. Registration continues Tuesday, Feb. 12, 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Forms must be filled out and returned on Registration Day, Wednesday, March 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the gymnasium at Stratton School. If you have not received an invitation to the Peirce orientation meeting for 2002-2003, contact the principal's office at 781-

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316-3736 so an invitation to the orientation can be mailed to you.

DALLIN: Registration information, Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. Information night: Thursday, April 11, 7 p.m., Dallin library. Visitation: Wednesday and Thursday, April 10 and 11: New kindergarten children are invited to come visit the kindergarten classrooms during the day. Schedules will be made up and sent home in March.

BRACKETT: Registration: Wednesday, March 6, noon, those whose last names start A through L; 1 p.m., those whose last names start M-Z. Orientation/ice cream Social, Thursday, April 4, 2:30 p.m. (families invited).

THOMPSON: Registration information night, Wednesday, March 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. New kindergarten parents are invited to attend a presentation by the Thompson kindergarten teachers in the school auditorium. "A Day in the Life of a Kindergarten Student" will cover curriculum, pacing, parent involvement and transitioning to kindergarten. A question-and-answer period and refreshments will follow. Take this opportunity to meet the kindergarten teachers, current kindergarten parents, support staff and the principal. Registration materials available at 6 p.m. and the presentation will begin promptly at 6:45. The snow date is March 7. Registration for kindergarten is Wednesday, March 6, at 6 p.m. or Thursday, March 7, from 9 to 11 a.m. Snow date is March 12.

HARDY: March 25. Details to come.

All kindergarten information at <http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/kinder.htm>.

### Bishop Bear Fair

Organizers are seeking sponsors now for rides and games for the Bishop Bear Fair, the school's main fund-raiser for the year, to be held Saturday, May 18.

Sponsors can choose a specific ride or game such as the Moonwalk, Giant Slide, Pony Rides, etc., or can simply donate funds to help defray costs for the fair.

Businesses, families and individuals wishing to sponsor an event at the Bishop Bear Fair should contact Cindy Starks (781-646-8887 and [acm@mediacione.net](mailto:acm@mediacione.net)) or Chris Doherty (dotclan1@msn.com).

### Brackett Select Chorus

The Elementary Select Chorus has the honor of being invited to sing at the Massachusetts Music Educator's All-State Conference on March 14.

The current Brackett newsletter names the following members from its school:

Lauren Adelman, Michael Barbosa, Nathaniel Boit, Nicholas Chvany, Nick Eidson, Daniel Fenichel, Ashley Fitzgerald, Simon Ginet, Heather Kobayashi, Olivia Kostigan, Jackson Kusiak, Conor O'Neill, Rebecca Penney, Alisa Peterson, Michelle Rosie, Jazmin Russian, Deirdre Sheehan, Kayla Wade, Emma Wilson, Alice Xiang, and David Young.

Upcoming at Brackett:

Storyteller Norah Dooley performs "Stories from my Neighbors" Tuesday, Feb. 5. Performances include a series of stories based on the different traditions and ethnic backgrounds of her neighbors. Sponsored by the Cultural Enrichment Committee and supported in part by the Russell Fund. Friends

and family of the Brackett community are welcome at 9 a.m. or the 10 a.m. performances in the dining room.

- Wednesday, Feb. 6, PTO meeting, library, 7 p.m.

- The second grades are having a Valentine's Day fund-raiser to help pay for their upcoming trip to see "Sleeping Beauty." Order fresh roses or tulips from Wilson Farms by Friday, Feb. 8. Pickup on Valentine's Day from 2 to 3 p.m. Order forms are available in the lobby. Questions? Call Denise Healy, 781-643-7963.

- Heritage Day planning meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in the cafeteria. Come with detailed description of your country's presentation.

- Academic enrichment committee to meet Wednesday Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Brackett science room. Contact Andrea Gwosdow at 781/646-4251 or [andrea@gwosdow.com](mailto:andrea@gwosdow.com).
- The PTO needs a committee to organize the June Fair. Contact Lynn Wilson, 643-3638, or Elena Bartholomew, 646-4678.

### Thompson fest

Planning is under way for the Thompson International Festival, to take place March 23. Volunteers are needed to serve on organizing committees. If you are interested in helping out, contact Emily Morrison (781-648-7539) or Vicki Rose (781-316-3774).

Upcoming at Thompson:

- Scholastic book fair, Feb. 5-7; volunteers needed during the school day when students visit the book fair with their classes. A volunteer sign-up was sent home. Return the sign-up if you can help. Profits from this book fair are used to provide books to teachers for their classroom libraries. Families can also add to the classroom library by participating in the classroom wish-list program.

Teachers will make a list of books that they would like to see in their classroom and that will add to their students' knowledge and imagination. A classroom wish-list display will be at the book fair. Consider donating a book to your child's classroom library. The books will become a permanent part of the classroom library and every gift will be recognized with a bookplate identifying your family or child as the donor.

### Upcoming at Hardy

- Next PTO meeting, Feb. 6. All encouraged to attend; new ideas always welcome.

- Movie night, the spaghetti dinner night and the annual ice-skating party. The latter is set for March 16, 7 to 9 p.m. Look for information concerning the community-service project, which will include food drives, cleanups and other school and community-related projects.

### School news

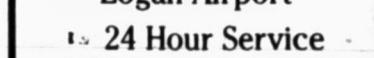
You can tell the public news about your public school by e-mailing school-related items to Bob Sprague ([bsprague1@rcn.com](mailto:bsprague1@rcn.com)), communication specialist, Arlington public schools or call 781-641-4490 before 10 a.m. any Monday for publication in The Advocate the following Thursday of that week. School information is posted on the town's Web site.

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# ARTS

## New band has own sound

BY AMY DIMASI  
CORRESPONDENT

Searching to hear some fresh music that's not like everything else on the radio? Two 19-year-olds — Patrick Balthrop and Dede Booth — have teamed up to create a unique band called Patrick Balthrop with a sound all their own.

Balthrop, the lead singer and guitarist, attends Berklee College of Music and Booth, who plays percussion, attends Northeastern University and is a lifelong Arlington resident. They met last year at Northeastern University, which they both attended at the time, and discovered that both were music industry majors.

Balthrop gave Booth a copy of his demo and Booth said the second she heard it she thought "this is a different sound of music and I definitely want to be a part of it."

They've been playing together ever since. The two have been playing music for many years and aspire to become professional musicians. Balthrop began playing guitar in seventh grade.

"The guitar was the first instrument where I could fully express myself," said Balthrop. "It's like my best friend."

Booth has played drums since she was 8 years old and formed a band with friends called Indigenous Grooves when she attended Arlington High School.

"I've always felt like I was born to play the drums," she says.

The unique sound of the

band comes from their diverse influences. Among these are progressive rock, folk and jazz. However, Balthrop describes their music as "unique, it purely comes from the heart."

"We're all about passion," added Booth. "Everything is passionate for us. Practicing and performing, it all drives us to play."

The band's mission is to reach out to people and make them aware of the social politics that are relevant to today's world. The music is "lyrically political and melded with poppy, catchy, melodic form," described the duo.

They call themselves "two 19-year-olds leading music in a new direction" and said "we're simply trying to make people aware of the gray issues that are hidden from society and should be exposed."

The band has played at Northeastern University's "After Hours" coffeehouse and can be seen Tuesdays at Club Passim's open mic night in Harvard Square. This is also broadcast live on the Internet at Radioboston.com. They are also in the process of recording their first album.

If you'd like to be placed on the mailing list of Patrick Balthrop, have any questions, or would like to inquire about booking a gig, you can contact Patrick Balthrop via e-mail at [PIB1982@aol.com](mailto:PIB1982@aol.com) or cell phone at 617-283-9377. Dede Booth can be contacted via e-mail [Dbooth2982@aol.com](mailto:Dbooth2982@aol.com).

## Exhibit features disappearing Middle East

BY HELENE NEWBERG  
CORRESPONDENT

Career counselor Kendall Dudley was used to telling clients to stay open to life's possibilities and follow their passions to uncover latent abilities and interests. But when his own passion for visual arts resurfaced almost four years ago, Dudley was nearly caught off guard.

"I had little control over this process. I would wake at four in the morning and start painting," he said.

As Dudley approached the age at which his mother had died, he found himself in emotional turmoil. Facing his emotions "awakened in me something I do a lot with my clients, which is to reconnect with those latent interests, which for my clients often fuel new career directions or add substance and depth to what they're currently involved in," he said. "It was frightening and wonderful, as I remembered what I had been saying to other people, which was just 'See where it goes.'"

Dudley has paintings and photographs on display at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 630 Massachusetts Ave. It is his second show; the first was at Starbuck's in Lexington Center. After having some work displayed at the church as part of a member's show last November, he was asked if he would like a solo show in the church gallery.

Many of his paintings, in both watercolor and oils, feature Middle Eastern architectural motifs.

He now realizes that painting "was a way of trying to understand my feelings. I was reconnecting with an earlier time in my life. I served in the Peace Corps in Iran in 1968 and 1969. After that, I pursued an interest in Islamic architecture. As part of working towards a Ph.D. in Islamic architecture, I went back to Iran and Turkey and cataloged buildings. I took four-to-five thousand pictures of ancient buildings: homes, schools and mosques. Both fancy and simple architecture.

"A lot of those buildings may not exist anymore," he said, referring to the ravages of troubled times on the region's architectural treasures.

As his professional interest in the subject waned, he sold many of those images to museums and



Kendall Dudley's works can be seen through Feb. 23 at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church.

schools.

"The resurgence of my interest came four years ago, with imagery from the Middle East so prevalent in the painting and then seeing how it linked with my interest in photography, sketching, and journaling," said Dudley.

Although he studied and worked as an economist with the

obediently let go of that side of himself.

The dome shape that dominates much of his work, accompanied by warm colors, he called "ubiquitous" in Middle Eastern architecture.

"The dome shape covers houses, shrines, hospitals. When there's no wood, people build

national aspect of the structure," Dudley explained. He described it as a language he doesn't fully understand, but one that once he figures it out "maybe an alternate way of learning why I'm here and why both the struggle and the good stuff happen."

Having worked in the Middle East, Dudley's perspective has proven valuable. As he speaks on behalf of the Peace Corps, he helps dispel myths about Muslim culture and works to help Americans understand the differences in the two cultures.

"An emotional commitment to religion is a big differentiation," he said. "Many Muslims live in a religious culture."

He was able to see the emotional component contributing to satisfying lives and tries to bring that perspective back.

"In this country, we're often afraid of people who are emotionally involved with their faith," he said. "Without actually living there for awhile, it is very hard to get into those other shoes."

Dudley's photos, and paintings will be displayed until Feb. 23. The hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays; and 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays.

**The resurgence of my interest came four years ago, with imagery from the Middle East so prevalent in the painting and then seeing how it linked with my interest in photography, sketching, and journaling!**

KENDALL DUDLEY

Peace Corps, he said, "powerful experiences there awakened me to the more artistic side of myself — writing, journaling, prowling buildings and bazaars."

Dudley remembers being drawn to visual arts as a young man, but said in response to a humiliating experience in which he was told to "hang it up," he

domes. On a symbolic level, domes go back to Constantinople, who was trying to build the largest dome in the world. He was up against the limits of how much you can do before the weight of the dome crushes itself and the challenge of getting the mathematics of the building correct. There's the idea that the dome inspires all majesty of spirit.

"There's a part that for me is the most powerful, the simpler, func-

## Piano festival planned for May

The town of Arlington will hold its annual Piano Festival on May 5.

All Arlington piano students and/or students of Arlington piano teachers are invited to perform. The recitals will showcase

Arlington's talented teachers and their students at all levels from elementary to advanced adults.

For more information and applications call Angela Gazza at 781-646-7768.

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Arlington residents Charlie Utter and Julie Schopper are in the Lexington Christian Academy's production of "Into the Woods."

## Christian Academy presents 'Woods'

Lexington Christian Academy presents the award-winning Broadway musical sensation "Into the Woods."

This witty and imaginative production with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine will be presented on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

With wit and humor for children and adults alike, Lapine presents the traditional fairy tale characters Cinderella and her prince, Jack and his beanstalk, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White and Little Red Riding Hood along with Lapine's own creation, the Baker and his wife.

It's the couple's next door neighbor, the witch, who begins the chaps by granting the Baker and his wife's wish of having a child. In the woods the characters, each pursuing a goal, live out their stories at the same time, bumping into one another and entangling one another's narratives. "Into the Woods" arouses a wide variety of emotions.

The Lexington Christian Academy of "Into the Woods" is directed by Rhonda Lajoie and Rosemarie Manganello and is designed by Chip VanderBrug.

Tickets are \$9.00 and can be purchased by calling 781-862-7850.

## Performance explores issues facing teens

Parents of children of all ages, and stage and theater buffs will want to get a view of the struggles of adolescence during an upcoming evening with Michael Fowlin, actor and psychologist. On Monday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. "Myke" Fowlin will return to Arlington High School's Lowe Auditorium, to present a theatrical piece that all grade 7 to 12 students have seen in school sometime over the past few years.

So, what's the buzz? "You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me" has received acclaim throughout the Arlington schools and now the Arlington High School Gay Straight Alliance brings the performance to the entire community.

This one person show deals with the issues of race, discrimination, violence prevention, personal identity, suicide, gender equity, homophobia and the emotional pain felt by a special education student. In this gripping, fast-paced 75-minute performance, Michael Fowlin slips in and out of nine characters, male and female, who share their stories in an often humorous, and at times heartbreaking manner.

"Jermaine" is a 6-year-old African-American who dreams of becoming president. His hyperactive learning style lands him in the principal's office. Though brilliant, he is targeted by teachers because he's not a "fold your

hands and sit down" type of student.

"Octavious" is a star football player on his way to a Division I program with a full scholarship and a lot of other issues on his mind.

"Frank Sanders" addresses racial profiling and is tired of being labeled.

"Joey Schiavo" is the big man on campus who talks about making a difference and offers solutions to avoiding a "Columbine" at his school.

"Sabine" is a biracial young woman who explores these and gender issues and her personal experiences with harassment.

"Young Soon" is an Asian man who attempts to process how American he has to become to face less discrimination in corporate America.

"Tommy" is a mentally- and physically-challenged boy who thanks Joey for "seeing" him and painfully describes what he experiences when people make fun of him.

Fowlin earned his doctorate at Rutgers University and has combined his talents as actor, psychologist, and poet to address these difficult issues. The performance has been funded through a grant written and awarded to students in the Arlington High School Gay Straight Alliance through the Safe Schools program of the Department of Education.

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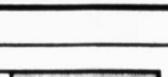
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## SURVEYING THE DAMAGES

While "damage" is defined as a loss or harm resulting from injury to a person, property, or reputation, "damages" refers to compensation. Damages are divided into a number of categories upon which the recovery may be based.

"Compensatory damages" are for making a person "whole again" (put back into the position which existed before the harm or loss). One of two main categories of compensatory damages is "general damages," which is the amount needed to restore the fair market value of the property to its owner. The other is "special damages," which include documented out-of-pocket items (such as the need to rent or replace property) or the cost of services (such as the cost to have

property valued or appraised).

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Future damage that is certain to occur as the result of loss or harm is recoverable so long as there is a satisfactory basis for which the future, anticipated losses or harms can be determined.

## Friends present 'The Night of the Iguana'

Arlington residents Ernest Stevens, Megan Finnerty and Hugo Mendez will be appearing in Arlington Friends of the Drama's production of Tennessee Williams' final play, "The Night of the Iguana" the first two weekends in February. It is being directed by Bob Eiland.

Ernest Stevens has been a member of A.F.D. for 35 years, and holds the distinction of being an Honorary Member. This his 19th role in a major production. His favorite roles were in our productions of "Damn Yankees," "The Odd Couple," and "Mame."

Megan Finnerty studied Anglo-Irish Drama at University College Cork in Ireland. Previous performances include "The Heidi Chronicles" and "Mother Courage and her Children."

Hugo Mendez is new to A.F.D. He has appeared on the stage in his native Mexico.

"The Night of the Iguana" is an emotionally turbulent masterpiece

telling the story of the former Rev. Lawrence Shannon, who has been defrocked following a sexual escapade with a young girl. The clergyman turned tour guide takes a busload of pious Texan church ladies to an Eden-like spot along the coast of Mexico where he battles their suspicions about his past, his own demons, and a young girl whose affections could destroy him. His old ways come taunting again in the person of Charlotte Goodall, a sex-crazy teenage girl with her eye on the older man.

Set at the beginning of World War II, it starts with Shannon's arrival at a decaying hostelry. He is poised on the razor's edge of a complete nervous breakdown, seeking counsel and succor from an old friend who has died during his absence. What Shannon finds instead is Maxine, the earthy widow of his deceased friend, playing casual hostess to a group of German tourists. This adds to the major problems Shannon is hav-

ing with the group of female American tourists he has led astray in order to reach this seaside retreat. But he also finds a kindred spirit, of sorts, in the person of the spinster Hannah Jelkes, who has arrived penniless at the same destination with her aged grandfather in tow.

There is, of course, an attraction between spinster and fallen clergyman, but as Williams' Night unfolds it becomes something far deeper and more complex than one expects. It skirts the purely sexual to probe deeper into solitude and cast lights into corners where questions of life, death, humanity, forgiveness and God have been swept.

Apparently inspired by actual events that transpired at an Acapulco hotel in 1940 and based on real people (the character of Maxine was modelled on Williams's landlady, while the defrocked and panic-stricken Rev. Shannon was an acknowledged self-portrait of

ARLINGTON FRIENDS OF THE DRAMA, "THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA," Friday, Feb. 1 to Sunday, Feb. 3 AND Friday, Feb. 8 to Sunday, Feb. 10, AFD THEATER

the playwright) this is the story of aching loneliness and brief human communion that is both triumph and tragedy.

The show will be presented on Feb. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 at the AFD Theater, 22 Academy Street, Arlington Center. For tickets and information, call 781-646-5922 or visit the AFD Web site at [afdtheatre.org](http://afdtheatre.org)

## Spring writers, poets program schedule

The Arlington Center for the Arts is pleased to present the Writers & Poets program spring schedule. The series is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.acarts.org](http://www.acarts.org) or call 781-648-6220.

• Feb. 28 — Edith Shillue and Jean Troustine

Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St.

Edith Shillue has worked and traveled extensively, most recently in Northern Ireland and Asia. She is the author of "Earth and Water: Encounters in Viet Nam" and the forthcoming memoir, "Peace Comes Dropping Slow: Conversations in Northern Ireland" (both University of Massachusetts Press). Her non-fiction work focuses our understanding of culture and history. She teaches at UMass/Boston.

Jean Troustine is professor of humanities at Middlesex Community College. With grants from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, she developed a theater arts program at Framingham Women's Prison, which is the basis of her book, "Shakespeare Behind Bars: The Power of Drama in a Women's Prison" (St. Martin's Press, 2001). Her personal essays and poetry have appeared in Working Class Writing and Poetry Motel, among others.

• March 21 — Cris Mazza and Ralph Lombreglia

Robbins Library, 700 Massachusetts Ave.

Cris Mazza is the author of several books, most recently "Girl Beside Him," a novel from FC2. Her other books include "Dog People," the PEN/Nelson Algren award-winning, "How to Leave a Country,"

William Doreski is professor of English at Keene State College in New Hampshire. He has published several poetry collections, three critical studies — "The Years of Our Friendship: Robert Lowell and Allen Tate" (University Press of Mis-

sissippi), "The Modern Voice in American Poetry" (University Press of Florida) and "Robert Lowell's Shifting Colors" (Ohio University Press) — and a best-selling textbook entitled "How to Read and Inter-

pret Poetry" (Prentice-Hall). His essays, poetry, and reviews have been widely published. His most recent collection of poetry is "Another Ice Age" (Cedar Hill, 2002).

Ralph Lombreglia wrote the sto-

ry collections "Men Under Water" (Doubleday) and "Make Me Work" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). A contributor to *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic Monthly*, he is writing a novel for which he received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Whiting Writer's Award. He founded the "Digital Culture" column for *The Atlantic Monthly* and with Kate Bernhardt, co-produced the award-winning CD-ROM, "A Jack Kerouac ROM-nibus," (Penguin Electronic and Mind In Motion).

• April 11 — Jeff Friedman and William Doreski

Robbins Library, 700 Mass. Ave.

Jeff Friedman is the author of two collections of poetry: "Scattering the Ashes" (Carnegie Mellon University Press) and "The Record-Breaking Heat Wave" (BkMK Press, University of Missouri-Kansas City). His poems have appeared in many literary magazines, including *American Poetry Review*, *The Antioch Review*, *Manoa*, *New England Review*, *Boulevard*, and *Midstream*. His third collection of poetry, "Taking Down the Angel," will be published by Carnegie Mellon University Press in fall 2002. He teaches creative writing at Keene State College.

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